REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Specification, Drawings, and Claims

The objections to the specification set forth in item 3 of the final Office Action were addressed in the previous response by amending the first paragraph of the detailed description to point out that the slope plane is element 123 shown in the drawings, and by amending the first complete paragraph on page 6 by changing "plane 6" to –plane 2–.

The objection to the claims set forth in item 4 on page 3 of the Official Action was also addressed in the previous response by amending claim 6 in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the first Official Action, and by amending claim 5 to provide antecedent basis for the reflecting light recitation added to claim 6.

In view of the amendments made in the previous response, it is believed that the continued objections made in the final Office Action, which repeat objections made in the first Office Action, must have been inadvertent, and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

2. Rejections of Claims 1 and 6-7 Under 35 USC §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,009,598 (Bohn), Claims 2-4 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of the Bohn Patent, and Claim 5 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of the Bohn Patent and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0201951 (Chin)

Claim 1 has been amended in response to the indication by the Examiner that the original claims do not, in his opinion, positively recite the relationship between the slope plane and prism plane in such a way as to distinguish the Bohn patent. In particular, claim 1 now positively recites a **single channel**, and in addition recites that:

- the slope plane is a front face of the single channel; and
- the prism plane is a rear face of the single channel,

with the prism plane being disposed obliquely towards a first lens part to totally reflect incident light and the slope plane being arranged obliquely substantially towards the same direction as the prism plane to slightly and downwardly refract the incident light reflected by the prism plane.

Even if the Examiner is correct that the Bohn patent discloses slope and prism planes that correspond to those of the claimed invention, the alleged slope and prism planes of Bohn are not faces of a single channel, as now claimed. Instead, Fig. 6 of the Bohn patent shows an arrangement in which there are at least "two" channels formed on the "light guiding device," denoted as "front channel 110" and "rear channel 112", respectively, rather than the claimed single channel.

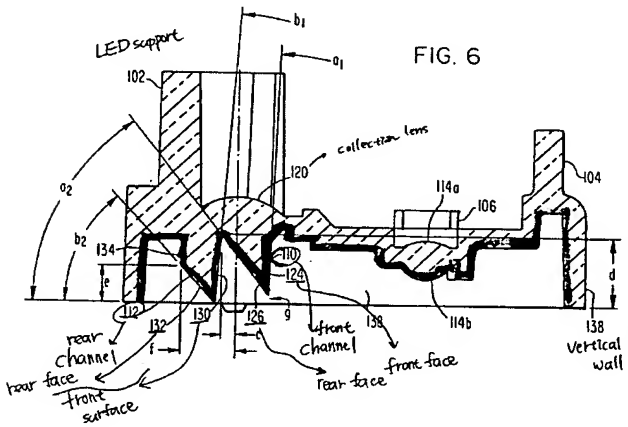

FIG. 6

In contrast, as shown in Fig. 5 of the present application, the present invention in fact has only "one" channel-like structure, including a front face (slope plane 123) and a rear face (prism plane 122) formed on the light guiding device. As a result, the structure of the light guiding device of the present patent application is different from that of Bohn, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is requested.

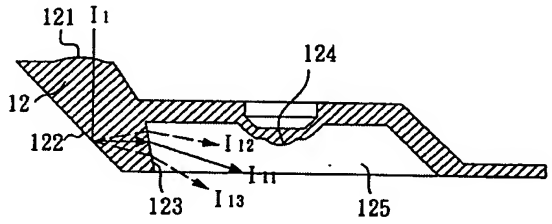

FIG. 5

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, namely the failure to disclose or suggest the claimed relationship between slope and prism planes forming front and rear faces of a single channel of a light guiding device. In addition, claims 2-5 are believed to recite additional patentable features as explained in the previous

response, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 4, 2007

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